



Outdoor Party Perfection

LIFESTYLE GURU STEVE KEMBLE SHARES HIS TIPS FOR HOSTING AN EXTERIOR AFFAIR WITH UNFORGETTABLE FLAIR IN YOUR OUTDOOR DINING AREA

EYE APPEAL Be creative in setting the tone. For example, use bandannas for an outdoor barbecue, sea shells to hold votive tea light candles for a beach party, and crisp linen and fresh-cut florals for a garden party.

BRIGHT IDEAS Illuminate walkways with candles in paper bags weighted down with a cup of sand. And festive torches, string lights and paper lanterns are all fabulous

for an outdoor soiree. On your table, consider grouping pillar candles in various heights, sizes and textures. But remember, unscented candles are always best for dinner parties so they won't compete with the wonderful culinary aromas.

TOTALLY STOKED Remember to fuel up! If you are using a gas grill, check the butane level. Or if you are using a standard grill,

make sure you have ample charcoal and lighter fluid on hand.

HYDRATION STATIONS When hosting an outdoor party, you want your guests to remain hydrated. Galvanized tubs are great for holding beverages. I always recommend separate tubs for nonalcoholic and alcoholic drinks.

NOTEWORTHY ADDITION Whether you have a full-blown outdoor sound system or a simple boom box, what you play is more important than what you play it on. When making musical selections, remember that

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jazz is the most universally pleasing choice of music.

BAD COMPANY What to do about all those pesky uninvited guests—bugs! If you are going to spray your yard, do it at least four hours before the start of your party so the insecticide smell has time to go away. Or simply place citronella candle pots and torches around the area.

AND FINALLY ... Always have a backup plan in case of poor weather. If you don't

have adequate covered porch space, consider keeping a tent or canopy on reserve.

Steve Kemble has been behind countless international events for more than 20 years. He has showcased his flair for fashion, gift for event planning and irresistible personality on "The Great Domestic Showdown" for ABC Primetime, "Whose Wedding Is It Anyway?" and "Married Away" for the Style Network. He also served as the organizer for the "I Do Crew" on ABC's "Extreme Makeover: Wedding Edition." www.stevkemble.com